

Message Text

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ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ADP-00 ACDA-19 AEC-11 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11

EUR-25 NEA-10 RSC-01 OIC-04 EB-11 COME-00 COA-02

INT-08 CG-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 NSF-04 AGR-20 DOTE-00

FMC-04 JUSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 SCI-06

CEQ-02 RSR-01 /247 W

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R 150927Z AUG 73

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1180

INFO USUN NEWYORK 9540

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DEPT PLEASE PASS ALL DIPLOMATIC POSTS AND AMCON HONGKONG

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR, UN

SUBJ: LOS: SEABED COMMITTEE MEETING, SUMMARY

OF SIXTH WEEK

1. OVERALL SUMMARY. SCI WG COMPLETED FIRST REVIEW OF ALL ARTICLES ON SEABED MACHINERY. SCII WG WORK WAS CONFUSED AND PROGRESS WAS PAINSTAKINGLY SLOW LARGELY DUE TO ABSENCE OF CLEAR DIRECTION ON PROCEDURES TO BE FOLLOWED TO DEVELOP ALTERNATIVE TEXTS. SC III WG ON MARINE POLLUTION WAS STALEMATED ON QUESTION OF ENFORCEMENT AND WG ON SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH MADE SLOW PROGRESS.

2. MAIN COMMITTEE. MAIN COMMITTEE MET ONCE AND AGREEMENT WAS REACHED TO ESTABLISH SYSTEM FOR CONSULTATION AMONG REGIONAL GROUPS TO FACILITATE WORK OF SEABED CMTE. CONSULTATION GROUP MET SEVERAL TIMES DURING WEEK.

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3. SUBCOMMITTEE I.

A. SUBCMTE I MET BRIEFLY. PERU AND BRAZIL RAISED ISSUE OF CURRENT DEEP SEABED EXPLORATION/EXPLOITATION ACTIVITIES BY US AND OTHER COUNTRIES' COMPANIES, IN PARTICULAR, HUGHES TOOL. US REP STATED THAT US REMAINS OPPOSED TO INTERIM MINING LEGISLATION AS WAS STATED DURING MARCH SEABED CMTE SESSION IN NEW YORK.

B. SCI WG COMPLETED FIRST REVIEW OF ALL ARTICLES ON SEABED MACHINERY, INCLUDING PREAMBULAR TEXT PROPOSED BY USSR, AND BEGAN SECOND READING. AFTER SLOW BEGINNING, WG MADE RAPID PROGRESS.

4. SUBCOMMITTEE II.

A. SUBCMTE II HEARD REPORT FROM CHAIRMAN OF WG AS WELL AS REP OF FAO. MALTA, UKRAINE, ITALY, NETHERLANDS, PHILIPPINES AND BULGARIA SPOKE AT LENGTH ABOUT THEIR RESPECTIVE PROPOSALS. AUG 16 AND 17 WILL BE DEVOTED TO SUBCMTE REPORT AND LAST WEEK (AUG 20-24) TO MAIN CMTE REPORT.

B. SUBCMTE II WG OF WHOLE SPENT MUCH TIME DURING WEEK DISCUSSING PROCEDURE. WG DECIDED TO BRING TOGETHER AS MANY ALTERNATIVE TEXTS AS DELEGATES DESIRED UNDER LIST ITEMS WITHIN WG'S MANDATE. WG THEN AGREED ON TEXTS FOR SEVERAL NON-CONTROVERSIAL DRAFT ARTICLES BASED ON 1958 CONVENTION ON TERRITORIAL SEA AND CONTIGUOUS ZONE. WG ALSO DECIDED THAT CLOSELY RELATED LIST ITEMS SUCH AS TERRITORIAL SEA, EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE AND PREFERENTIAL FISHING RIGHTS WOULD BE CONSIDERED TOGETHER ALTHOUGH ORDER OF PRESENTATION IN CONSOLIDATED TEXT WOULD BE FOLLOWED. NUMBER OF STATES SUBMITTED ALTERNATIVE TEXTS ON BREADTH OF TERRITORIAL SEA AND LIMITS OF EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE. UNDER SECRETARY-GENERAL OF UN (STAVROPOULOS) INITIATED SERIES OF INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS TO DEAL WITH PROCEDURAL PROBLEMS OF SCII WG. US SUBMITTED TABLE COMPARING 1958 CONVENTION LANGUAGE ON INNOCENT PASSAGE THROUGH TERRITORIAL SEA WITH DRAFT UNCLASSIFIED

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TEXTS SUBMITTED TO WG. ON FRIDAY AFTERNOON, INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS, AMONG SPONSORS INCLUDING US REP, MANAGED TO SUBSTANTIALLY REDUCE NUMBER OF DRAFT ALTERNATIVE TEXTS.

C. SUBCMTE II INFORMAL WORKING UNIT ON FISHERIES MET FOR SECOND TIME AND CONCENTRATED ON ARTICLE IN SIX-POWER DRAFT PROPOSAL (A/AC/138/SCII/L.38) WHICH DEALT WITH RIGHTS OF OTHER STATES TO FISH IN COASTAL STATE

EXCLUSIVE FISHING ZONE. CO-SPONSORS OF DRAFT WERE UNWILLING TO ENDORSE DEGREE OF GUARANTEED ACCESS TO FISHING ZONE DESIRED BY DISTANT WATER STATES AND LAND-LOCKED STATES IN REGION.

5. SUBCOMMITTEE III. SUBCMTE CHAIRMAN ANNOUNCED THAT WGS WOULD COMPLETE SUBSTANTIVE WORK ON AUGUST 14. THEN SUBCMTE AND WG WOULD COMMENCE WORK ON REPORT OF SESSION INCLUDING HISTORICAL SUMMARY OF WORK SINCE 1971, REPORTS OF WG CHAIRMEN, TEXTS PREPARED BY WGS, ETC. INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION OBSERVER SPOKE OF ACTIVITIES WITH DEVELOPING COUNTRIES RELATED TO LATTERS' PARTICULAR PROBLEMS. INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY OBSERVER SPOKE OF ACTIVITIES RELATED TO SEABED COMMITTEE MANDATE REGARDING MARINE POLLUTION.

B. WG ON MARINE POLLUTION DRAFTING GROUP (DG) COMMENCED CONSIDERATION OF ENFORCEMENT BUT COULD NOT AGREE ON METHOD OF PROCEDURE. STATES REFUSED TO CONSOLIDATE TEXTS CONTAINING SIMILAR IDEAS. DG COULD NOT AGREE ON GROUPING ORIGINAL TEXTS ON ENFORCEMENT SUBMITTED BY INDIVIDUAL STATES. DG PROVISIONALLY APPROVED ALTERNATIVE TEXTS ON COMPETENCE TO SET LAND-BASED, SEABED AND VESSEL SOURCE POLLUTION STANDARDS.

C. SCIII WG ON SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH (SR) PROGRESS HAS BEEN SLOW AND ONLY TENTATIVE DEFINITION AND OBJECTIVES ACCEPTED THUS FAR BY WG. FIVE ALTERNATIVE TEXTS ON RIGHT TO UNDERTAKE SR HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY DRAFTING GROUP. NEXT ITEM DEALS WITH CONSENT, PARTICIPATION AND OBLIGATION OF COASTAL STATES. BASSIN

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ABOVE ADDRESSEES.
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